

Hayward Marine Injured

A young Marine from Hayward suffered wounds in both legs and his left arm last week during the intense fighting near the 17th parallel in South Viet Nam, according to word received by his family.

He is Lance Cpl. Steve Hayes, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. George L. Hayes, 24832 Townsend Ave., Hayward.

According to his father, the 1964 Mt. Eden High School graduate — attached to the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, — was wounded Monday during Operation Prairie. His wounds were apparently from fragmentation grenades, his father said.

A veteran of four months in Viet Nam, and a Marine since last November, young Hayes is recovering at the Quang Tri field hospital, his father said.

2nd Purple Heart For Hayward Man

A 19-year-old Marine Corps corporal from Hayward has received his second Purple Heart award in less than six months after being wounded in combat last week in Vietnam.

Marine Cpl. Steve L. Hayes, in a letter to his parents written from his hospital bed in Da Nang, termed himself "lucky" despite his wounds.

"The same mortar round that got me killed two of my best buddies, and I was closer to where it hit than they were," he wrote to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George L. Hayes, of 24832 Townsend Ave., Hayward.

HAYES, A member of Bravo Company of the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, was wounded in both legs and his left arm when his company was surrounded by a battalion of the enemy in "Operation Beacon Hill."

The fight started about 9 a.m. March 22, he wrote. He was wounded about 3:30 p.m.

"We had already lost over 20 men in the company

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Second Purple Heart Awarded Hayward Man

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killed and I don't know how many wounded," Hayes wrote. "I don't know how they could have got out of it. They (the Viet Cong) had us cut off from the other companies and surrounded. I don't know what happened after I left, but I pray they got out of it."



HE SAID HIS platoon had 40 men when the battle began and only 15 were still in action when he was evacuated.

He described himself as "in very little pain" and said his wounds were not serious, but that he will probably be in the hospital for several weeks.

After that, he said, "I'll probably go back to what's left of my outfit" and await orders for home.

Hayes won his first Purple Heart last September when he was wounded in both legs and his left arm in combat.

A graduate of Mt. Eden High School, Hayes joined the Marine Corps in November 1965.



SGT. STEPHEN HAYES

Purple Heart Winner

Hayward Marine Going Back To Vietnam Action

By KAREN HOLZMEISTER

A Marine sergeant from Hayward who has already earned three Purple Hearts in Vietnam heads back to the battle zone this week because he grew edgy sitting around where the action isn't.

The eager Leatherneck is Stephen L. Hayes, a Mt. Eden High School graduate who turned 21 just last week. He returned to Camp Pendleton, near San Diego, today after spending the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Hayes, 24832 Townsend Ave., Hayward.

Hayes has already logged 13 months in Vietnam, and had to

sign a waiver to get around a rule that a three-times wounded serviceman can't return to action. He'll rejoin his old outfit, the First Battalion.

IN SEPTEMBER, 1966, a land mine explosion wounded Hayes in both legs and his left arm. He was a lance corporal then. The following February, a round of fire hit him in the leg and sent him to sick bay, which he left after four days. A bullet creased his leg during heavy ground fighting in March.

Although he still has shrapnel in both legs, he says there's rarely any discomfort "except in cold weather."

Only one Purple Heart is given

our two caus... so we need it when the war is bad or unavailable and the temperatures go to about 120 degrees."

en, on the initial presentation, but Hayes took a general into another one on his second decoration.

"They only cost about ten bucks," he estimates, "and I had it 'til I lent it to a guy in Okinawa, who wanted to impress his girl and send it to home. He said he'd give it back to me, but I left town before she returned it."

AFTER ALL THIS action, enough for most men in one lifetime, Hayes was relegated to the position of mail orderly and bartender. He didn't like it.

"The M-16 rifles had just come out and they didn't issue me one," he recalls.

So he returned to the States, got his two-year recuperation period reduced to six months, and while waiting to return, was taught battle tactics, of all things, at Camp Pendleton.

Since October, Hayes has been going to "recon" school, to

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Purple Heart Winner

Marine Heading Back To War

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prepare men to go out in teams of four to six men in enemy territory and report all information back to headquarters.

★ ★ ★
HELICOPTERS drop recon units into enemy territory, and the men move out of the area to set up an outpost in the mountainous, jungle area. They stay, equipped with food, ammunition, water and equipment, from five days to two weeks.

Hayes, whose enlistment is up in May, 1969, is looking forward to resuming this adventurous life.

"Most Marines don't like Stateside duty; they feel useless, not being in the fighting," he explains.

A 1964 graduate of Mt. Eden High School, Hayes enlisted six months after graduation and is saving his pay to enter school in September of 1969. He would like to keep in contact with his buddies, though, because "especially in the recon unit, we're a tight team. When you're there, you're there. When you're carrying a gun, no-one messes or bothers you. You're there to get a job done."

★ ★ ★
LIBERTY AND beer don't come often enough for servicemen in Vietnam, who have to resort to black market beer sold by Vietnamese women and children.

"The officers tell us not to buy it, but we often can't get our two cans a day ration and so we need it when the water's bad or unavailable and the temperatures go to about 120 degrees."

Strangely he recalls that each time he was wounded it didn't bother him "because it was expected, not so frightening."

The Vietnamese don't hit American troops unless the odds are on their side — "because we have so much fire power." He is looking forward to joining the recon team "because we can use our wits and beat the enemy on their own ground, by hiding in trees and spying on them, seeing how much food, ammunition and morale they have."

MAY 5 1968

Funeral notices

Hayes, Stephen Lee died at home in Hayward Friday June 5, 1992 of a heart attack. He was a life long resident of Hayward, born in Oakland. Age 45. Steve graduated from Mt. Eden High School class of 1965. He was a Viet Nam combat veteran who as a sergeant in the Marine Corps served two combat tours of duty from 1966 to 1968. He earned 3 Purple Hearts for his combat wounds and was decorated w/the National Defense Service medal, Viet Nam Campaign Medal, Viet Nam Service medal, Good conduct Medal and was awarded Rifle Sharp Shooter Badge.

Steve was well liked and considered a valuable person in the community for his long career as an adult education music therapist teacher through the H.U.S.D. He was a compassionate teacher with the handicapped and geriatric residents.

Steve had authored 2 books, written over 2,000 songs and wrote a screen play. He also studied classical guitar, piano, voice and saxophone. He is survived by his wife Yan, son William 7 yrs, John 4 yrs & daughter Stephanie 22 mo. Sisters Nancy Handy of Fairfield, Marilyn Anderson of Hayward, Jackie Anderson of Washington state.

Memorial Services will be held at Machado's Hillside Chapel, Tuesday, June 9, 6-9 pm. Funeral services at 2pm Wednesday, June 10, Machado's Hillside Chapel thence to Holy Sepulchre Cemetery for graveside services.
June 9, 1992

HAYES, STEPHEN LEE
of Hayward, June 5, 1992. Age 45 years .
Dearlly Beloved Husband of Yharoyan Hayes of

Hayward. Beloved Fathe of William S. Hayes of Hayward, John M. Hayes of Hayuward, and Stephanie M. Hayes of hayward. Dear Brothier of Marilyn H. Anderson of Hayward, Nancy Handy to Fairfield, and Jacklyn Anderson of Wshington Also survived by 6 Nieces and 2 Nephews.

He was a Mt. Eden High School graduate of 1965, an attended Chabot College and California State University, Hayward. He had two tours in Vietnam with the U.S. Marines and earned "Three Purple Hearts". He worked as a teacher for H.U.S.D. for 13 years and has been a resident of Alameda Country for 45 years.

Friends and Relatives may visit Tuesday, June 9, 1992 from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at MACHADO'S HILLSIDE CHAPEL, 1051 Harder Road, Hayward. The funeral service will be Wednesday June 10th at 2:00 P.M. at the funeral home. Interment to follow at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Hayward. For further information please call.

MACHADO'S HILLSIDE CHAPEL
(510) 537-6600
June 9, 1992

JUN 9 1992

Hayward JUN 9, 1992

Stephen Lee Hayes died of a heart attack Friday, June 5, 1992, at his home. He was 45.

An Oakland native, he lived in Hayward most of his life. He graduated from Mt. Eden High School in 1965 and attended Chabot College and California State University, Hayward.



He enlisted in the Marines during the Vietnam War and served two tours of duty. He was wounded on three occasions, and earned three Purple Hearts.

He worked as a music therapist for the Hayward Unified School District for the last 13 years, and was near completion of his bachelor's degree in music from Cal State Hayward. He also wrote songs and played the guitar and saxophone.

He wrote two book manuscripts and a screenplay, mostly about the Vietnam War. Since his tours of duty, he experienced flashbacks of the deaths of his friends and other horrors of that war, said his sister, Marilyn Anderson of Hayward.

"He never lived a minute without thinking about these conflicts," Anderson said.

Besides his sister, he is survived by his wife of 7½ years, Yan Hayes of Hayward; one daughter, Stephanie Hayes of Hayward; two sons, John and William Hayes, both of Hayward; two other sisters, Nancy Handy of Fairfield and Jacklyn Anderson of Washington; one aunt; four cousins; six nieces, two nephews.

Visitation will be from 6 to 9 p.m. today and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday at Machado's Hillside Chapel, 1051 Harder Road. A funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the mortuary. Interment will be at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.